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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 16 Mar. 1951

SUBJECT Rumored Attempted Assassination of
Hoxha Government Members

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1. Rumors have been circulating in Shkoder to the effect that an attempt had been made to assassinate members of the Hoxha Government on Soviet Army Day (23 February 1951), by setting off a bomb. Members of the Government for whom the bomb was destined are said to have escaped unhurt, as the bomb exploded a quarter of an hour late; a large part of the building where the ceremony took place, however, was allegedly destroyed.
2. According to the rumor, more than 500 persons were arrested the same day, including high Army officers, Government officials, and technicians; it was also alleged that 15 persons who were under suspicion (names unknown) were shot immediately.

Comment: This is the first report we have had of this incident, and pending confirmation, it should be treated with reserve; the above rumor may well be a distorted version of the recent (19 February 1951) bomb explosion at the Soviet Embassy in Tirana, which caused some damage and wounded several persons. As a result of this explosion, two Albanian chauffeurs of the Soviet Legation, as well as two or three hundred other persons, were arrested. If the report is true, however, of possible interest may be the ATA announcement on 5 March 1951 of the "release from duty" of Spiro Pano (Deputy Prime Minister) and Rita Marko (Minister of Industry), both of whom were said to have been "entrusted with other important duties." The appointment of Fadil Carcani to replace Rita Marko was announced two days later, but no further mention was made of either Marko or Pano.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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